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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)	Before the Examiner:
Eddie F. Ray III)	Jerry L. Cumberledge
Serial No.: 10/689,277)	Group Art Unit: 3733
Filed: October 20, 2003)	Attorney Docket: MSDI-269/PC545.02
METHODS AND INSTRUMENTATION)	August 29, 2007
FOR VERTEBRAL INTERBODY)	
FUSION)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

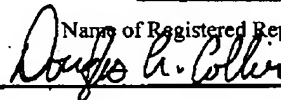
In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 29, 2007, and Advisory Action mailed August 7, 2007, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks along with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith. No extensions of time are believed necessary for consideration of the enclosed, and the fee for the RCE is enclosed along with the RCE Request. Please charge any additional fees which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

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Preliminary Amendment with RCE
Serial No. 10/689,277
Attorney Docket No. MSDI-269/PC545.02
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